

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 /073 W

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R 011800Z AUG 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1252

AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCEUR UNN

CINCUSAFE UNN

CINCUSAREUR UNN

USELMLO UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1527

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD, OPS AND INCO

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEAGC-COC & AEAGB-CI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, PGOV, WB, UR,

SUBJECT: NEWSPAPER LEAK ON JULY 25 NEAR MISS IN
SOUTH CORRIDOR

REFS: A) USBERLIN 1457

B) USBERLIN 1463

C) USBERLIN 1469

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1. AUGUST 1 DER TAGESSPIEGEL CARRIES EDITORIAL ENTITLED /DANGEROUS CARELESSNESS," WHICH STATES THAT THERE HAVE BEEN TWO RECENT NEAR-MISSES BETWEEN SOVIET MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND ALLIED COMMERCIAL CARRIERS IN AIR CORRIDORS. EDITORIAL, WHICH WE BELIEVE IS BASED AT LEAST PARTIALLY ON BRITISH LEAK, HAS NO DETAILS AND TAKES LINE THAT, WHILE ALLIES DO NOT CONSIDER INCIDENTS TO BE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, SOVIETS NEED TO EXERCISE GREATER CARE IN WIDE RANGE OF AREAS TO ENSURE THAT BERLIN DOES NOT INADVERTENTLY BECOME SOURCE OF EAST-WEST TENSION DESPITE FINE WORDS SPOKEN BY PARTICIPANTS IN HELSINKI SUMMIT.

2. WE DO NOT FIND STORY DAMAGING; IT MAY IN FACT BE HELPFUL IN FACILITATING ANY SOVIET POLITICAL EFFORTS WITH SOVIET MILITARY. ALLIED MISSIONS HAVE AGREED TO FOLLOWING LINE FOR U.S. (CHAIRMAN) SPOKESMAN TOHUSE IN FIELDING PRESS INQUIRIES:

A. (IN REGARD TO FACTS OF INCIDENT:) WE CAN CONFIRM THAT THERE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN SEVERAL INCIDENTS IN THE AIR CORRIDORS INVOLVING CLOSE PROXIMITY OF NON-ALLIED AIRCRAFT (IF ASKED, WE WOULD CONFIRM, "BELIEVED TO BE SOVIET") TO ALLIED CARRIERS, WHICH HAVE CAUSED US CONSIDERABLE CONCERN FROM THE STANDPOINT OF AIR SAFETY. (IF ASKED ABOUT DETAILS, WE WOULD DECLINE TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION,)

B. (AS TO WHAT WE ARE DOING ABOUT IT, E.G., HAVE WE PROTESTED TO THE SOVIETS:) WE HAVE VOICED OUR CONCERN TO SOVIETS IN EACH INSTANCE WITHOUT DELAY THROUGH CUSTOMARY CHANNELS AVAILABLE FOR SUCH PURPOSES, BUT NORMALLY DO NOT PUBLICLY DISCUSS THESE MATTERS IN DETAIL. (HAVE WE HAD RESPONSE?); NATURALLY WE ANTICIPATE RESPONSES WHEN WE MAKE SUCH APPROACHES, BUT AS WE HAVE INDICATED, I CANNOT DISCUSS DETAILS.

C. (DO YOU AGREE THAT THE INCIDENTS DO NOT HAVE A POLITICAL MOTIVATION?): WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE.

3. SOVIETS HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED FORMALLY TO ALLIED
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DEMARCHE ON JULY 25 INCIDENT DESPITE DAILY REMINDERS FROM US REP IN BASC. IF WE DO NOT GET RESPONSE BY EARLY NEXT WEEK, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO CONTACT SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELLOR KHOTULEV AGAIN AND REMIND HIM THAT ANSWER IS STILL OUTSTANDING. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, NEWS LEAKS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Reference: 75 USBERLIN 1457
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Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
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Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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To: BONN
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Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006